

Name _____

The Bumbling Detective and the Tree-Stealing Caper

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Detective Doodlebrain was easily fooled because he often misinterpreted people's words and actions. For example, he misunderstood Professor Pecanbottom's jokes and took them seriously. He also misinterpreted the cookie crumbs as a clue, which led him to Betty Birchbark. His gullibility and tendency to jump to conclusions made him easily fooled.
2. Detective Doodlebrain could have explored the possibility of someone intentionally stealing the trees for malicious purposes. He could have questioned more witnesses and checked for other clues, such as footprints or surveillance footage. Being more thorough in his investigation might have led him to the truth more quickly.
3. Whether Professor Pecanbottom's hobby of collecting tiny trees was strange or harmless is a matter of perspective. Some may find it quirky but harmless, while others might consider it unusual. However, it ultimately did not have a negative impact on the town or its trees.
4. Mr. Oakenshade's actions and explanation changed Detective Doodlebrain's perception of the case by revealing that the tree-stealing had no malicious intent. Instead, Mr. Oakenshade had collected the trees to share their beauty with others, which made the detective realize that the situation was not as dire as he had initially thought.

